

SECRETS-E-C-R-E-T

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Another task facing the coal industry is the assurance of a further sharp increase in labor productivity and, on this basis, improvement in all qualitative work indexes and, first of all, a reduction in the production costs of coal. The conversion of mine faces and mines to the cycle work schedule to complete one cycle per 24 hours, now carried out in the Donbass, is the measure which will make most likely the solution of the problem of improving qualitative indexes, considerably increasing labor productivity and lowering production costs of coal.

The conversion of mine faces to the cycle schedule had decisive importance for the improvement in work in Donbass mines in the second half of 1950 and in the 1950 coal-output plan fulfillment. In July 1950, the Donbass coal output had increased 1.5 percent over that for March, while the increase in the other coal basins amounted to 2.7 percent. However, in December, after the conversion of mine faces to the cycle schedule, the Donbass output had increased 4.5 percent over July, while the increase in other basins was 2.5 percent. Thus, in the first half of 1950, the rate of increase in Donbass coal output was about half that of other basins, but after conversion to the cycle schedule, it was almost twice as much as other basins.

The same situation prevailed in regards to labor productivity. In the second half of 1950, labor productivity in the Donbass was twice as high as that of other basins. At faces which were regularly completing one cycle a day, the coal output increased on an average of 54 percent and labor productivity rose 30 percent.

The introduction of new capacities and primarily the restoration of the Donbass played an important role in the coal industry's ahead-of-schedule fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan. As a result of the restoration of the Donbass, it is now delivering more coal than before the war and more than was planned by the Five-Year Plan. The Donbass is again the largest and the most mechanized coal basin of the country.

The coal output of the Moscow basin is now three times the prewar level, while the development of the coal industry in the Urals, the Kuzbass, and the Karaganda basin has continued. The coal output in the east was more than twice as great in 1950 as in the prewar period and the new coal base, the Pechora basin, has also expanded considerably.

Miners' living conditions have steadily improved in the postwar years, during which time housing facilities have been increased by several million square meters. Other construction, designed to enrich the lives of the miners, included many palaces of culture, hospitals, nurseries, and other cultural and public buildings.

Enormous new tasks face the coal industry in 1951. In the first place, the tempo of coal mining must be considerably increased over that achieved by the postwar Five-Year Plan if the goal of 500 million tons per year, set by Stalin, is to be achieved. Contributing factors toward this goal will be a greatly expanded mine-construction program, the introduction of new and higher production capacities, and an increase in mechanization in all phases of coal mining in operating mines. In addition to this, other coal basins of the country should profit by the experience of the Donbass and convert their mines to the cycle work schedule, completing one cycle each 24 hours. -- A. Zasyad'ko, Minister of the Coal Industry

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